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no mean order. Indeed, the fine arts are practised in Mexico to a greater relative degree than in our own country.

How absurd then are such comparisons!

The author's logic would seem to be that of Captain Kidd. In the words of "The Changed American" above referred to—"our neighbor has property. Why not take it from him—under the forms of law, of course, but still so as to convert his property to our own use?"

H. R. L.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA.

APPRECIATION

SIR,—I have been an admiring reader of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW ever since Colonel Harvey left *Harper's Weekly* and became its editor. It was the taste I got of the Colonel's quality in the *Weekly* that led me to follow him to THE REVIEW.

The October number of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW is superior to any magazine I ever saw. The first article, the one by the editor appealing for the support of the President, is one of the finest essays I have ever read. I wanted a friend to read it, so I marked it; when I finished the magazine I found I had marked every article save one, and that I hadn't read.

After reading the editor's article I said to myself, Macaulay, Thackeray, Symonds, Goldwin Smith, Walter Pater sit closer, here is one worthy of a seat on your throne.

I didn't know till now that my old friend THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW was a centenarian. I must congratulate her on her robust health and youthful appearance.

JOHN L. LANK, M.D.

MONONGAHELA, PA.

SIR,—Between the "Horrors of Peace" and the "Horrors of War" it is hard to choose a place to live.

And this is Armageddon! It does look some like it indeed.

"Since upon night so sweet,
Such awful moan could rise."

But for forty years the Kaiser overcame the forces of inertia and kept down the dogs of war.

You put news and knowledge all together so skilfully that your thirty-five-cent magazine is worth as much as a one-dollar-and-a-half book.

JAMES F. MALLINCKRODT.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

SIR,—I want to express to you the great satisfaction I derived from your most admirable article, "Uphold the President." While greatly admiring President Wilson and his administration for the most part, I heartily agree with the criticism you make in regard to the extravagance of the Democratic party, which is such a gross violation of its solemn promise to the electors.

It seems to me that one of the gravest dangers and tendencies of the

Government to-day is the tendency to increase the army of official pensioners and to enlarge the executive functions of government in such a way as to menace the integrity of free government by making the executive departments overshadow the legislative and, to a certain extent, the judicial departments. Departments, bureaus, and permanent commissions are increasing on every hand, and what is most disquieting to me is the fact that the Democratic party, which is supposed to be the conservator of the Jeffersonian theories, appears to be vying with the Republican party in this doubly dangerous innovation.

Quite apart from the principal objection—that is, the menace to free institutions—is the economic objection. Every department, bureau, and commission established not only increases the army of officials to be supported by the taxpayers, but invariably leads to a number of new appointments and increased expenses, incurring a vast amount of unnecessary taxation. It seems to me that we are becoming a commission-ridden people. Our city, State, and National Governments seem to be tending toward bureaucracy, with Russian and German ideals taking the place, to a great extent, of the old robust democratic theories of the elder days.

B. O. FLOWER.

BOSTON, MASS.

WHAT TO DO TO TREATY-BREAKERS

SIR,—The editor in the September number of *THE REVIEW*, in writing of the flagrant breaches of treaty obligations which have characterized the opening of the war, struck one hopeful note when he declared that never had the breaking of solemn obligations met with such universal disapprobation as now.

Skeptics assert that back of every agreement made between man and man or nation and nation lies force, which alone guarantees their enduring—force of law, represented by the courts, or force of arms. If a man breaks his agreement he can be arraigned, judged, and punished. If a weaker nation breaks her agreement she can be overpowered by a stronger one. But it does not often come to pass that the Lamb troubles the stream of which the Wolf will drink! And how then shall a strong nation which breaks its solemn promise to a weaker state be dealt with? Who shall arraign it before the International Bar? That is not difficult. Who shall judge it? Of judges there will be no lack. But who has the power to punish it?

Once the liege lord sat above the penalties his vassals suffered, even as his donjon towered above their huts. Once a king could do no wrong. But what king would dare slay ambassadors to-day? And now even the nations do not dwell, like the gods, on an Olympus above the law.

But where is the force which is to punish their breakings of the rules which they themselves have made and sworn to observe? *Public opinion*.

It is the Jack the Giant-killer among the ogres, slight of stature, yet invincible when it has climbed the beanstalk of publicity.

The strength of public opinion has never yet been really tested. It is newer even than wireless electrical manifestations. So far the demonstrations of its power have been so slight and as apparently uneventful as the scraping phonograph toys and the early experiments of Galvani. It has been a high-sounding term which conveyed no definite impression; yet certain